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## Even in Summer's Heat, Canyon's Still Grand

By [Toby Smith](#)

Journal Staff Writer

For some people, the Grand Canyon in summer is the Grand Cancellation.

"It can be warm here," admitted Debbie Hendricks, who co-owns Just Roughin' It Adventure Company, an Arizona-based outfit that specializes in Grand Canyon hiking tours and backcountry hikes.

But heat is no reason to stay away from the canyon, according to Hendricks.

"Some of our trips are busier in the summer than any other time," Hendricks said.

And the weather? "We have cloudy days and we get a monsoon season, like Albuquerque does, from July to mid-September."

Hiking trips and adventure tours in the Grand Canyon area, said Hendricks, fill up fast during June through August.

"We take lots and lots of families to Havasupai," she said. "That's in the Grand Canyon, but it's on Indian land and not part of the national park."

There's water spots on the Havasupai trip— creeks, pools, and waterfalls— to cool off in. And if you leave early in the morning, you'll get shade, Hendricks said.

July temperatures at Havasupai, according to official reports, can reach into the 90s.

By comparison, the average July temperature at the bottom of the canyon's inner gorge is 106.

Just Roughin' It doesn't go to the bottom in July. Instead, its hikers descend only 4-plus miles, to Indian Garden.

And even then, the Just Roughin' It guides are careful.

"We take loads of water, believe me," Hendricks said. "Everyone beforehand and we watch our hikers during trips."

Another option that Just Roughin' It offers is a base camp on the rim, where summertime temperatures average only 80 to 85 degrees. Nighttime temps can drop to a cool 40 degrees.

"From there we do day hikes down, maybe three miles at most, then hike out," said Hendricks. "When we get back to base camp, to our tents, we light a campfire."

The rim is the only place in Grand Canyon National Park where fires are permitted. Founded by Hendricks and her husband, Ray, Just Roughin' also provides customized hiking and backpacking tours to Sedona, the Superstition Mountains, Mogollon Rim, southern Arizona and southern Utah.

Debbie Hendricks advises vacationers to book as early as possible in order to

secure desired dates and guides.

"We take care of all the planning and preparation, serving beginners everything they need from sleeping bags and tents to packs and utensils," she said.

"If you are more advanced and have your own supplies, we can provide you with a professional guide to just show you a particular trail."

Grand Canyon trips range from one-day hikes to week-long backpacking tours, and span many sections of the region.

Depending on length of time, prices start at \$575 and go to \$1,425.

All trips include:

- | Round-trip transportation.
- | Experienced guides.
- | All meals.
- | All required permits.
- | Equipment including tents, stoves, sleeping bags, air mattresses, backpacks and utensils.

Riding horses and helicopters are available for additional fees. Children as young as 7 can participate with advance notice.

For more information or to book a trip, visit <http://www.justroughinit.com/> or call (877) 399-2477.

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